

432 Seventh Street, NW (Commercial Building)
(Bag Mart)
Washington
District of Columbia

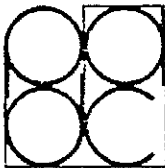
HABS No. DC-581

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DC,
WASH,
295-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

425 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

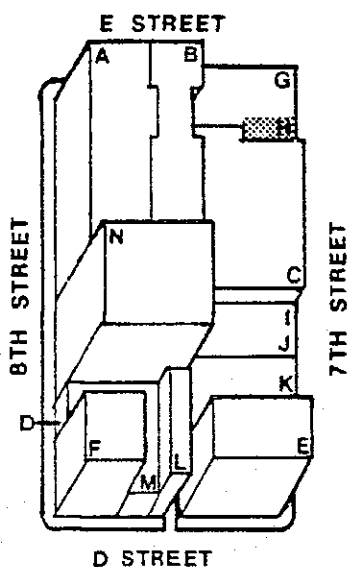
GENERAL CONSULTANTS

ANDERSON NOTTER/MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
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DAVID MCLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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432 Seventh Street, NW
(Bag Mart)
Lot 807



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 431, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 431, see HABS No. DC-574.

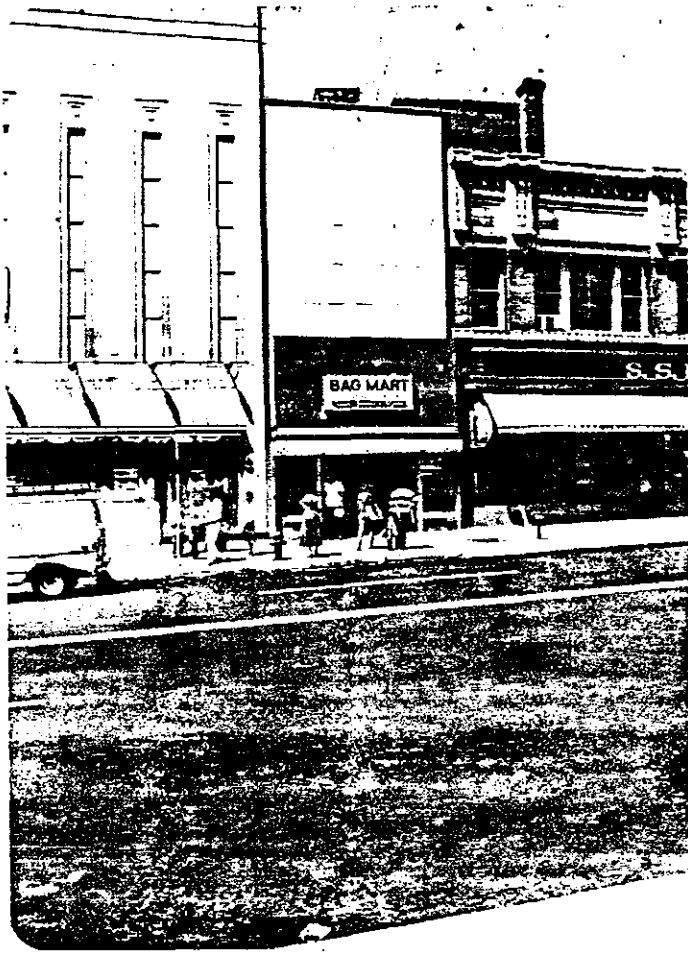
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Bag Mart, a three-story brick and wood frame structure erected in the 1850s, is situated on lot 807, on the west side of Seventh Street between D and E Streets (1850s taxbooks). Approximately forty feet high, this rectangular building has dimensions of eighteen feet by fifty feet. The one-bay wide store is flanked by the Kresge building to the north and the Lansburgh's Department store to the south. Today this structure presents an entirely blank east facade. A projecting modern plate glass storefront is the sole fenestration on the Seventh Street elevation. Metal panels with a baked enamel finish cover the upper two floors of the facade. The structure consists of brick bearing walls with wood-framed floors.

Inside, the retail space occupies the first and second levels. No significant architectural features are present. The upper floor and the basement level were inaccessible at time of inspection.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The modern facade cladding has little artistic value and has obliterated from view all the original details of the elevation. As it stands, this building presents a harsh and unharmonious relationship with its neighbors and the downtown district at large. Removal of the facade cladding may reveal original details.



Seventh Street Facade (East)

Lot 13 (Sublot 807)
432 7th Street

Lot 13 had been consistently platted as a small rectangular area, 18' x 75' (Bastert, 1872, Hopkins, 1892, Baist, 1903, and 1919).

1819.....Richard Henley and John Sessford each owned half of Lot 13.

1822.....Henley's assessment was \$801.00 (lot) and \$3,600.00 (improvements).
Sessford's value was \$252.00 (lot).

1829/33...The lot assessments were \$1,425.00 and \$415.00 to Henley and Sessford, respectively.

1844.....Henley's assessment reached \$1,710.00 while Sessford's dropped to \$360.00.

1859.....Henley's ownership (north, 57' frontage) was transferred to Michael Talty. Talty's lot value was \$6,412.00. Sessford's property (south, 18' frontage) was valued at \$1,800.00.

1870.....Talty and Sessford received improvement values of \$5,000.00 and \$2,500.00, respectively. F.H. Finley & Co. and E.F. Buckley, owned cigar/tobacco stores in 1870 and 1877-1879, respectively.

1872/73
and

1878/79...From this date, the southern property of Lot 13 was listed only.
John Sessford was assessed \$5,400.00.

1881
to

1890.....The City Directories listed a jeweler, R. Harris & Co., as tenant.

1883/84...Sessford's assessment increased to \$6,300.00.

1893/94
and

1899/
1900.....The lot assessment was unchanged, and \$3,500.00 was listed for improvements. However, the property was retitled to Reuben Harris and Abraham D. Prince.

1904

to

1907.....David Wolf, a shoemaker, occupied the building.

1908.....An October 10 Building Permit (#1439) to "remove present show windows and build new ones". Also, to "add a 4' platform in back of building. Brick up one opening inside wall". Architect: A.B. Mullett & Co.
Cost: \$400.00.

1915.....The November 3 Building Permit (#2139) to Mrs. "Hattic" Harris granted the insertion of three windows on the north wall, 2' x 3'.

1927

to

1936.....The City Directories showed the Lerner Shops as occupant.

1936.....A September 5 Building Permit (#195,046) granted Lloyd C. Mayers, Contractor, to alter show windows for the National Shirt Shops, Inc.
No structural change. Cost: \$800.00.

National Shirt Shops (men's furnishings) was tenant until 1967.

1945.....Building Permit #279,515 (August 11) allowed the removal of a concrete floor in the basement, excavate about 2'-6" and put in a new 4" concrete floor. Designer: M. Cladny. Cost: \$1,000.00.

Further alterations included the removal of "present show windows and build new show windows". Architect: Samuel Fergersen. (Building Permit #279,516, B/11/1945. Cost: \$3,000.00.)

Through a September 25 Building Permit (#280,305), wood joists in the first floor were removed, and replaced with new joist "lolly" column. Also replaced with a new beam. Value: \$500.00.

1981.....Bag Mart shop occupies the building.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map